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A circular black ink stamp from the Office of Intellectual Property (OIPE). The text "OIPE" is at the top, "APR 19 2000" is in the center, and "PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE" is at the bottom. The number "JCS 63" is written vertically on the right side of the stamp.

Examiner: Unassigned

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This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 19, 2000

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